

also received the 6th Annual Peacemaker Award from the Center for Human Development on January 27, 2000.

Today our thoughts and prayers are also with Andy's wife Doris, his daughter Alice, and son Daniel, and all of his family and friends. We join them in celebrating a life well lived. It is an honor and a privilege to commemorate the life of Andrew J. Baltzo and recognize the indelible mark he leaves behind on the residents of our Congressional Districts.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today not only as a Member of Congress representing 11 tribal nations, but also as a proud member of the Chickasaw Nation to support the passage of H.J. Res. 40. I would like to thank Mr. BACA for his leadership on this bill and for all the work he does on behalf of Tribes. This bill recognizes the achievements and contributions of Native Americans to the United States and encourages all Americans to observe the day after Thanksgiving as Native American Heritage Day. As a Nation with a tragic history in the treatment toward Native Americans, it is important that this Congress recognize the contribution that native peoples have made to the development of our Nation.

Today, there are 562 federally recognized Indian tribes in 34 States. Mr. Speaker, throughout the course of American history, these tribes ceded millions of acres of land to the United States, but have never ceded sovereignty or agreed to self-liquidation. Today, Indian lands are only about 5 percent of all land in the United States. Sadly, Mr. Speaker, many tribes remain fractured and broken, due to the destructive policies toward Native Americans. However, tribal heritage, history and contributions to the United States remain robust and all Americans should remember to honor the contributions of this courageous group.

Mr. Speaker, from the birth of the United States, Native Americans have contributed to our success as a country. The first European settlers could not have survived without the help of the native communities. Even during the Revolutionary War, Native Americans fought along side the colonists to fight for liberty. During their journey west, Lewis and Clark depended on tribes to see them through harsh winters and save them from starvation. Mr. Speaker, even while it was the policy of the United States to remove or destroy tribal governments in the 19th and early 20th centuries, Native Americans still worked alongside European settlers to grow our Nation both economically and culturally.

Mr. Speaker, throughout the course of our history, Native Americans have fought with, against, and for the United States. In fact, Indians have served in all the country's wars and historically enlist in the military in great numbers. Though all Native Americans did not even have U.S. Citizenship during World War I, they still volunteered their service. It is esti-

mated that more than 12,000 American Indians served in the United States military in World War I. By using native languages to confuse the enemy, these soldiers were able to turn the tide of one of the bloodiest wars in history. These "Codetalkers" continued this heroic effort in World War II. Historically, Native Americans have the highest record of service per capita than any other demographic group and there are over 190,000 Native American veterans today.

Today, Mr. Speaker, tribal communities are vibrant and growing. Tribal governments are strong, ensuring that their people retain their culture, values and way of life. In my state of Oklahoma in particular, home to 39 distinct tribes, Indian Country is flourishing. Tribal enterprises contribute millions of dollars to the State's economy and provide thousands of jobs for Oklahomans. Mr. Speaker, unlike private corporations, Native American owned businesses give back to their communities by investing in basic infrastructure, healthcare, education, law enforcement and a host of other government services. In many areas, tribal cultural activities are the only access to the arts and humanities that the local population can readily access. The changes that have been made my Native businesses in recent years are absolutely astounding. Tribal cultures enrich American life, and tribal economies provide opportunities where few would otherwise exist.

As legislators and as Americans, it is vitally important that we consider the contributions that Native Americans have made to the success of our great country. It is equally imperative that Congress remembers that we have engaged with Indian tribes as a government-to-government relationship with tribes since the first European settlers arrived in North America. As we make laws that will affect Indian Country, we should do so with the intention of keeping tribal governments strong, self-sufficient and encourage the preservation of tribal cultures.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to vote in favor of this significant legislation.

IN HONOR OF THE MOST REVEREND ANTHONY M. PILLA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Most Reverend Anthony M. Pilla, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Cleveland, for being awarded the 2009 Notre Dame College Medal.

The Most Reverend Anthony M. Pilla, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Cleveland, served the diocese as the ninth Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland for 25 years. A Cleveland native, he is a graduate of Borromeo College and St. Mary Seminary and was ordained to the priesthood in 1959. Bishop Pilla served as President of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. As Bishop, he directed community-based initiatives such as Church in the City and Vibrant Parish Life. He served on numerous community boards and committees including the board of the former National Council of Chris-

tians and Jews, the Greater Cleveland Roundtable and Catholic University of America.

Notre Dame College established the Bishop Anthony M. Pilla Scholarship Fund to honor him for his longtime dedication to higher education to make a Catholic education accessible to the disadvantaged. In 1994 he was presented the Fidelia Award for his longstanding work and support of Notre Dame College.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the Most Reverend Anthony M. Pilla, Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Cleveland for living Notre Dame College's commitment to personal, professional and global responsibility. He is certainly worthy of the award being bestowed upon him for his longtime commitment to civic work throughout Greater Cleveland.

TRIBUTE TO LAWRENCE CHIOU

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lawrence Chiou, of Ames, Iowa, who is among the outstanding U.S. high school students selected to attend the annual Research Science Institute sponsored by the Center for Excellence in Education and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

The mission of the Center for Excellence in Education is to nurture young scholars to careers of excellence and leadership in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The Research Science Institute is a highly competitive six-week program which emphasizes advanced theory and research in mathematics, the sciences, and engineering. Lawrence was selected for this program upon scoring in the upper one percent of U.S. student PSAT exam scores. From June to August 2009, Lawrence will learn from distinguished professors and conduct a research project at MIT.

I commend Lawrence Chiou for his commitment to academic achievement and leadership in science and technology. He is a future leader of this country of whom Iowa is very proud. I am honored to represent Lawrence and his family in the United States Congress and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

RAYMOND BRAGG, RETIREMENT FROM DIRECTOR OF REDEVELOPMENT AND SPECIAL PROJECTS FROM THE CITY OF FONTANA, CA

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 8, 2009

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Raymond Bragg, Director Redevelopment and Special Projects for the City of Fontana. Mr. Bragg has had an impressive 42 year serving the public in California and abroad.

A native of Burlingame, CA, Mr. Bragg currently resides in Fontana, CA. His accomplishments as a City Planner can be seen throughout Fontana. Prior to his professional career,